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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. International Women's Rights Action Watch

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) was set up in Malaysia in 1993 to fill the gap between the promise of women's rights and their actual realization, by promoting the domestic implementation of international human rights standards. It aims to enhance women's control over the processes through which they can articulate and claim their rights and freedoms. A key component of the work includes strengthening national women's groups to monitor their Government's adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international obligations to ensure the elimination of discrimination against women, increasingly including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The organization works internationally with a focus on South and South-east Asia, and has a growing profile in East and Central Asia, the Middle East/North Africa, Africa and the Pacific. The organization focuses on women and women's organizations, while at the same time working with women's human rights activists, lawyers, Governments and international organizations. The work of the organization is implemented through three key programmes, which focus on the advancement of women's human rights through advocacy, training and capacity-building and the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The advocacy programme contributes to standard setting in women's human rights at the international level, linking the work of women's groups at the local level with international processes that promote and protect women's human rights (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights treaties). The training programme focuses on building the capacity of women, organizations and institutions (activists, human rights activists, trainers, State officials, lawyers and the media) for advocacy on and reform of women's human rights, developing new conceptual tools and materials that can provide knowledge and skills on the significance and use of the Convention and other human rights treaties to build the capacity of others, expand their national-level advocacy and influence international processes. The knowledge creation programme supports the dissemination of knowledge and experience generated by the organization through its other programmes, publications, the website and the capturing of new knowledge on the evolving nature of international human rights standards, skills and ways to promote advocacy. The organization's strategy for implementing the Convention and women's human rights (known as IDEAS) also responds directly to information queries of national partners, for example, on international laws, domestic legislation, case law related to women's rights and best practices in addressing varying contexts of claims for women's human rights.

During the reporting period, the organizational affiliations were, and continue to be, with: (a) the International NGO Coalition for an Operational Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, working on the campaign to establish an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; (b) the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on building linkages between the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, so that both instruments can be used to support women's claims to economic, social and cultural rights and to build the capacity of women's groups to use the International Covenant; (c) the NGO group on the global campaign for the ratification and use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (d) the women's caucus for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights body, steering committee member of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA), and member of SAPA Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights (gender focal point).

From 2005 to 2008, the membership of the Board of Directors of the organization remained at five persons. The number of staff increased from 10 to 16 persons, 7 of whom are programme staff and 9 of whom are finance and administration staff, some of whom work on a part-time basis.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The organization attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from 2005 to 2008, facilitating the participation and engagement of women. This initiative, run in collaboration with UNIFEM and UNFPA, enables local women activists from countries reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to participate in the review process. The organization provides training, technical assistance and guidance on the coordination and writing of shadow reports, facilitates their attendance to observe the proceedings directly, and provides women with onsite training in lobbying and mentoring. Between 2005 and 2008, through this project, 312 women activists from almost 102 countries have contributed to standard-setting for human rights norms, and have monitored and challenged their Governments to live up to their obligations under the Convention.

In 2005, the organization attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and conducted a side event on the use and ratification of the Optional Protocol mechanisms for 60 participants.

In 2006, the organization attended the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and made a presentation on incorporating gender into development in the High-level Round Table.

The organization attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2005, and contributed to discussions on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It made interventions on the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and to the right to non-discrimination in this context and the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, looking especially at the intersectoral impact of discrimination against women.

The organization attended the second to fifth (2005-2008) sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as part of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an optional protocol and provided input on women's human rights perspectives.

At the inter-committee meetings and annual meetings of chairs of human rights treaty bodies (2005-2008), the organization contributed to discussions on harmonizing the work of the various treaty bodies and on reform of the reporting process and of the composition of the treaty body system. The organization sought to ensure that the reforms taking place take women's perspectives into account, that there is no regression of women's human rights and that space for women's and NGO's inputs in the discussion and deliberation of these bodies is maintained.

The organization attended the first to fifth sessions of the Human Rights Council (from 2006 to 2008), where it deliberated on the newly formed Council to ensure the integration of women's human rights and women's equality in the work of the Council and in the creation of the universal periodic review, advocated on the strengthening and further taking gender into account in the special procedures and any new mandates, and highlighted significant gaps in the representation of women's human rights concerns.

The organization attended the first to third sessions of the universal periodic review in 2008. It facilitated participation and built the capacity of women globally to submit information on women's human rights concerns to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review process.

The organization provided technical assistance on disabled women's rights to the NGO lobby group at the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (New York, January 2005).

The organization attended the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific meeting on the implementation of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (Bangkok, April 2007).

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

At a workshop organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, the organization provided technical assistance on the creation of a manual on implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The organization gave feedback on tools developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia to support implementation of gender mainstreaming by the Government of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, 4 December 2007). With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the organization contributed technical inputs to a workshop on human rights-based approaches to programming where a practical implementation manual, training materials and training of trainers were developed. The organization cooperated with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in South-east Asia

and the Pacific by providing inputs to national and regional programming for capacity-building on the Convention in those regions (2006-2008).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization presented a paper on the relevance of the links between human rights, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals at an expert group meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women on achievements, gaps and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (Baku, February 2005). It provided feedback at a stakeholders consultative meeting organized by UNDP Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, March 2007), which focused on implementation by the Government of Malaysia of key national priorities, including on its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, international treaties and the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Mauritius Council of Social Service

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Mauritius Council of Social Service was founded in November 1965 and has developed from a social services coordinating body into a Council of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dedicated to social services and sustainable social development. The Council was incorporated, by an act of Parliament, providing its legal framework. It is committed to promoting an effective and efficient NGO sector for the promotion of sustainable development, accountability, participation and democracy. As an umbrella organization for NGOs, the Council seeks to promote social and community development and voluntary actions by NGOs. It strengthens its members by initiating communication, collaboration and networking among NGOs and between NGOs, the Government and the private sector, primarily through meetings, workshops, consultations and institutional development activities. The Council strengthens the organizational capacity of its member organizations and plays a leadership role in good governance, policy, advocacy, capacity-building and innovation.

The purposes, objectives and mission of the Council are to: (a) promote voluntary/charitable activities and community and social development in Mauritius, in particular the advancement of social education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness; (b) foster cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes by bringing together representatives of statutory bodies and voluntary organizations; (c) stimulate economic, social and cultural activities for the advancement of the community; (d) assist in the planning and coordination of the activities of member organizations; (e) organize workshops, seminars, conferences and training courses for voluntary social workers, personnel of voluntary organizations and NGOs and professionals to strengthen their organizational and managerial capabilities; (f) coordinate the activities of NGOs in emergency and natural disaster activities and programmes; (g) collect, disseminate and share information pertaining to adult education and development; and (h) promote, encourage and undertake experimental work.

The Council's values are: (a) justice and democracy; (b) professionalism, commitment and passion for service; (c) continuous improvement and ethics; (d) good governance; (e) innovation and creativity; (f) a culture of inclusiveness; and (g) patriotism.

The Council's core services are: (a) development of and support to NGOs and civil society organizations; (b) information-sharing, networking and brokered services, including training, capacity-building, and research and development; (c) advocacy on behalf of NGOs and civil society organizations; and (d) influencing policy to promote responsible citizenship.

The Council has a membership of 250 organizations, it holds an annual general meeting, and is governed by an Executive Committee of 26 elected members one third of which are elected each year for a three-year term. The Chair is elected for a one-year mandate. The Council has a secretariat, which is responsible for the day-to-day management and the implementation of programmes and policies. Standing

subcommittees assist the Executive Committee in its various tasks (capacity-building and health, credentials, finance and general purpose, gender equality, family and the elderly, media and communications, networking and empowerment, small and medium-sized enterprises, social development, sustainable development and youth).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A series of information sessions for member organizations on children's rights, women's rights and domestic violence was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Training was provided on developing a human rights culture for 30 NGO practitioners, focused on protection of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, women's rights, children's rights, and rights of the disabled and the elderly.

In the disability sector, the Council, in collaboration with the Federation of Disabled People, organized a meeting aimed at creating a strong network among NGOs operating in the disability sector in order to avoid duplication of work.

A care training programme for NGOs operating in the disability sector was held to equip participants to provide care and support to individuals with various types of disabilities.

A workshop was held on maximizing the potential resources of the elderly and enhancing their contribution for the welfare of the community.

A project on strengthening the NGO sector in Mauritius was initiated by the Council, in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius and with technical and financial support from UNDP. The project was completed in 2009. The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the NGO sector in Mauritius and enhance its role as a partner of Government and the private sector.

The project included: (a) a participatory and comprehensive assessment of the NGO sector in Mauritius, with specific reference to its structure, performance and impact to date, legal and policy challenges and capacity development needs (including a complete review of the Council); (b) a review of the legal and regulatory framework for the NGO sector and improvements to address emerging challenges; (c) a review of corporate social responsibility policies in Mauritian enterprises, including partnerships between NGOs and the private sector; (d) a review of the Government's policy on the NGO sector; (e) development of a social partnership policy framework for the implementation of Government, NGOs and the private sector; (f) implementation of a capacity development programme for NGOs.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: an exhibition on the theme "Information sharing on poverty activities" and a conference on the theme "Poverty in Mauritius: an agenda for reflection and action — articulating the regional with the local" were held to develop inputs to the Southern African Development Community International Conference on Poverty and Development, which was held in April 2008; six regional workshops on poverty and development were held to ensure that civil society organizations, citizens and vulnerable groups were part of the process. The Council participated fully in the Conference.

Goal 3: in 2005, a brainstorming session was held to discuss values held in society; changes in society affecting the family; needs of families; vision and suggestions for family; areas of activities for NGOs and civil society; and a survey on capacity needs of NGOs in Mauritius, with special attention to gender issues. The main objective of the project was to ascertain the real problems facing NGOs on gender issues, to prepare a three-year action plan and get NGOs engaged in gender-related activities. In 2007, a workshop on the theme "Gender: from concept to action" was held to develop awareness of NGO leaders; to generate skills for social marketing of the concept of gender equality at all levels; and to ease the process of gender equality through a participatory approach. A monitoring committee was set up to design, develop, implement and monitor gender focus activities. Meetings were held with NGOs on the 2007 Sexual Offence Bill to obtain their reactions, comments and inputs.

Goal 7: a capacity-building and empowerment programme was developed to empower community leaders on environment and sustainability. The Council organized a consultative meeting with civil society to contribute to the new national environment policy. Five regional meetings were held on climate change to enhance public awareness, generate knowledge and disseminate information on climate change and its effects, and to promote capacity-building and educational activities.

3. National Fishworkers' Forum

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) represents small-scale fishworkers and the conservation of fishery resources. As a trade union of fishworkers representing the rights and interests of the fishing community, the Forum has dedicated itself to articulating the aspirations of the fishing community in India. Since 1978, the Forum has been at the forefront of helping fishing communities in India. The Forum held a national campaign emphasizing the urgent need to take an ecological view, with the slogan, "Protect waters, protect life" (Kerala, India, March 1989). The programme of work for the period 2005 to 2008 related mainly to tsunami relief and rehabilitation and campaigns for marine fishery, aquaculture and labour reforms.

II. Activities of the organization during the reporting period

2005

Indian coastal communities witnessed the devastating tsunami in December 2004, with about one fourth of the coastline bearing the brunt of the killer waves. The Forum was not equipped to handle relief and rehabilitation efforts on a large scale, and its immediate response was therefore to console and comfort the victims, sensitize Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and facilitate relief and rehabilitation to the extent possible. All the affected state-level organizations of the Forum were contacted and activated immediately on 26 December 2004. A team of volunteers was sent to Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India, who were involved in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in collaboration with various organizations. The funds collected through the Forum's tsunami relief fund were given to the Prime Minister's national relief fund. The Chair and General Secretary of the Forum visited areas affected by the tsunami during January to March 2005 and organized a convention in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, jointly with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies. The convention recommended setting up a national disaster-management authority to tackle natural disasters and running campaigns for marine fishery, aquaculture and labour reforms. The Forum also participated in the nationwide discussion on the comprehensive marine fishing policy 2004. It submitted its proposals and recommendations to the Government of India and organized a workshop in Chennai in August 2005 to discuss various aspects of the policy. A statement on the decisions taken by the state-level leaders at the workshop was released to the media. Organizations affiliated with the Forum conducted various meetings and training programmes during the year in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. During the Global Week of Action (10-16 April 2005) issues affecting fisher people were raised, such as unfair trade agreements, indiscriminate privatization and liberalization, and the right to food, livelihood, water, health and education. The Forum submitted a 42-point charter of demands to the Government. Because of the efforts of the Forum, the fisherwomen and inland fishers have been included in the national scheme for the welfare of fishermen. Implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal

Commission to include fishing communities in the lists of scheduled castes or tribes is the other important work taken up at the Ministry of Agriculture at the national level. The Chair of the Forum participated in the International Labour Conference regarding adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention (Geneva, June 2005) and in a meeting to discuss the Sethusamudram shipping canal project in December 2005.

2006

In 2006, the Forum campaigned for the concerns of fishing communities in relation to fish imports to be addressed at a meeting organized by the Centre for Education and Communication to evaluate the World Trade Organization's non-agricultural market access negotiations. The Forum lobbied the Minister for Agriculture of India on coastal and marine fisheries, fish processing, marketing and trade, coastal and freshwater aquaculture, poor conditions of work of women in fish processing plants, preventing pollution caused by shipbreaking and support for the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention at the International Labour Conference. The Forum conducted a campaign for social security for unorganized sector workers, especially to address the concerns of the fishworkers for inclusion in a draft bill on social security benefits. In collaboration with the Orissa Traditional Fishworkers Union, it led a public protest rally at Dhamra fishing harbour in Orissa against the proposed port construction in violation of traditional fishing rights. The Forum also campaigned against encroachment by the hotel industry into the commons used by fishing communities in Tamil Nadu and the harassment of fishers. The Forum organized a national-level workshop, in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies and the Centre for Education and Communication to discuss issues regarding turtle conservation, fisheries livelihoods, marine protected areas and coastal management zone reports. The representatives of various fishworkers' organizations from all coastal states participated in the workshop. The workshop was followed by meeting with the Minister for the Environment and Forests and the Minister for Agriculture of India. The Forum participated in an international workshop at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on co-management in fisheries, where it argued that there could be no co-management worth the name without empowering the traditional fishing community through radical aquatic reforms conferring custodianship of the fisheries to the community through national legislation. Eminent scholars from Norway, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented papers and explained the need for the co-management approach for the sustainability of world fisheries. The Forum has contributed to the Government's eleventh five-year plan (2007-2012) through its participation in the working group on fisheries, which was set up by the Government to make recommendations on various policy matters related to the fisheries sector. The Forum organized a two-day convention on biodiversity and livelihoods in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve and National Park at Gosava. The convention dealt with the predicaments faced by fishworkers as a result of multifarious restrictions on fishing and other human activities in the tiger reserve and national park. The convention stressed the traditional and customary rights of the fishing community and other forest dwellers, and demanded that conservation and livelihood go hand in hand, which is only possible by making local communities the custodians of natural resources. The Forum attended a dialogue between Indian trade union leaders and the European Union in July 2006 in New Delhi. The Forum delegation raised the issues of the

European Union policy of subsidizing European fishing fleets to plunder southern waters and non-tariff barriers to trade in fish with the European Community, etc. A strategy meeting of the leaders of the Forum was held in August 2006 to discuss the fisheries component of the draft national policy for farmers. Based on the decisions taken at the strategy meeting, a series of intensive campaigns were organized in the different coastal states in October 2006. The Forum conducted a leadership-training programme for the 22 state level leaders from Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal in September 2006. Eminent resource persons from various disciplines imparted training on coastal management, special economic zones and aquaculture legislation. The Chair of the Forum was a panel speaker in the India Social Forum on the impact of globalization on coastal communities. The Forum organized a number of meetings against building a nuclear power plant in West Bengal. Building the plant was expected to cause the eviction of 50,000 people living in 19 villages and to jeopardize the livelihoods of the entire fishing community of Medinipur East. The Forum organized sea safety training programmes and community interaction programmes in Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra states, conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.

2007

In 2007, the Forum participated in the national-level preparatory meeting on the Work in Fishing Convention organized by the Centre for Education and Communication. Following the preparatory meeting, the Forum participated in the strategy meeting in Negombo, Sri Lanka, in February 2007, which was also attended by all major national trade unions from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The meeting developed a joint strategy to influence the respective Governments to take a favourable stand towards the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention at the International Labour Conference in June 2007. The Forum also organized a national convention against building a nuclear power plant in West Bengal. The Chair and General Secretary of the Forum participated in the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers workshop on "Asserting rights, defining responsibilities: perspectives from small-scale fishing communities on coastal and fisheries management in Asia" (Cambodia, May 2008). It organized a national-level consultation on coastal zone regulation amendments, where an action forum was formed. The Forum organized campaigns in all coastal states on 9 August 2007 in the form of a protest march against some of the provisions of the proposed amendments.

2008

In 2008, the Forum organized a number of meetings on the Work in Fishing Convention in a number of states across India. These state-level meetings were useful and highly participatory, sensitizing the fishing community and the concerned government departments. The Forum carried out a campaign for fisher people's rights, with the slogan: "Save the coast; save the fishers". The campaign lasted 58 days and covered all coastal districts in the 10 maritime states and union territories of mainland India. Based on the campaign, the Forum developed a charter of demands. The fishworkers' struggle culminated in a sit-in before the Indian Parliament in New Delhi in November 2008 (a detailed report of the campaign is available online at: http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/usefulDocs/docs/english/%3C1236843867417%3EFULL-NFF-BOOK121208.pdf). The Chair and

other representatives of the Forum met the Minister for Agriculture for discussion on various issues related to fisheries and fishworkers. The delegation handed over its charter of demands to the Minister for Agriculture of India and sought the immediate intervention of the Ministry into the matters raised therein. The Forum Chair and 105 participants from 36 countries, representing small-scale fishing communities and indigenous communities dependent on fisheries for life and livelihoods, attended a civil society preparatory workshop for the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries. The preparatory meeting adopted a joint statement on sustainable fisheries, which was discussed in the plenary of the Global Conference. The Forum also attended the Global Conference, which was jointly organized by FAO and the Government of Thailand.

III. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The contribution of the Forum included oral and written statements, proposal of agenda items and organization of parallel NGO meetings and side events.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The cooperation of the Forum included preparation of or contribution to research papers and studies, joint sponsorship of meetings, humanitarian activities and operational projects and financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations.

The Chair of the Forum participated in the ninety-third session of the Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the adoption of Work in Fishing Convention in June 2005. The Chair also attended the panel discussion on ILO labour standards for the fishing sector on 14 June 2005.

The Chair of the Forum attended the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, jointly organized by FAO and the Government of Thailand (Bangkok, October 2008).

C. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

The organization could not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because of scarce funds and few representative staff members (all volunteers) attending international meetings. Its focus was mainly on activities at the grass-roots level, mainly to strengthen its organizational structure and focus on the struggle for life and livelihoods of Indian fishworkers.

4. Partnership Africa Canada

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) works in partnership with organizations in Africa and Canada and internationally to build sustainable human development in Africa. It has offices in Ottawa and Addis Ababa and is governed by a Board of Directors drawn in equal numbers from Canada and Africa. The organization undertakes research and policy dialogue on issues affecting Africa's development. During the period in question, its programmes focused on peace and human security, human rights and good governance.

II. Participation in United Nations meetings

During the period in question (2005-2008), the PAC Africa Bureau in Addis Ababa has continued to participate in various meetings organized by the United Nations. The organization's Research Director spoke at a panel discussion at the United Nations in New York in January 2007 following a special screening of the film "Blood Diamond".

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Collaboration with United Nations bodies during the period 2005-2008 included collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism Support Unit of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa. Examples of the collaboration are: (a) ECA-organized subregional civil society workshops on the African Peer Review Mechanism in Addis Ababa (January 2006), Douala (June 2007) and Bamako (July 2008). Provided financial and technical assistance to national civil society organization workshops on the Mechanism in Burundi (June 2008) and Côte d'Ivoire (August 2008); (b) in 2008, helped ECA Support Unit prepare a training manual on the Mechanism for African civil society; (c) in 2005, attended the International Conference for Peace in the Great Lakes Region, which was coordinated by the United Nations in Nairobi, to provide technical advice about the certification of high-value minerals, which have been a source of conflict in the region.

PAC's assistance included: (a) assisted in the drafting of the Great Lakes protocol on combating the illegal movement of natural resources in the region and two subsequent projects; and (b) ongoing work of the technical group overseeing the implementation of the protocol.

The organization took action on United Nations resolutions. As a member of the Kimberley Process, PAC has helped to implement General Assembly resolution of December 2000 with respect to the work of the Kimberley Process in developing an international system to prevent conflict diamonds. This has included specific actions in countries such as Liberia, where United Nations sanctions were imposed.

5. Public Services International

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Public Services International (PSI) is the global union federation for public sector trade unions. Founded in 1907, PSI currently represents 685 affiliated trade unions in 160 countries around the world, and coordinates public sector struggles for workers' rights, social and economic justice and efficient and accessible public services. Together, these unions organize more than 20 million public sector workers, providing services in central government, health and social care, municipal and community services and public utilities. PSI campaigns to improve the quality of public services, working closely with international organizations, national Governments, consumer lobbies, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and unions. Based in Ferney Voltaire, France, on the French-Swiss border just outside Geneva, PSI has regional offices in Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Togo, Ukraine and the United States of America. In September 2007, the PSI Centennial Congress adopted a global policy and strategic objectives for the period 2008-2012, with quality public services as the overarching theme and guiding principle for all of PSI's work. New areas of focus for PSI, reflected in the resolutions adopted at the Congress, include the Millennium Development Goals and the role of public services, international migration and climate change. The PSI Constitution was amended at the Congress to include a young worker representative from each region on the PSI Executive Board, as well as on the PSI Regional Executive Committees, in order to involve more young people in the activities of PSI and to make sure they have a real influence in the work trade unions are doing. At the Congress, a new General Secretary was elected, replacing the previous General Secretary, who had held this position since 1981.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization has been visible throughout the period in various United Nations and related bodies and at various levels, on a broad range of issues. Much of PSI's engagement with the United Nations is with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Freedom of association and collective bargaining are the fundamental basis of all PSI's work to promote quality public services, through campaigning to defend workers' rights; effective use of ILO and other United Nations agencies' supervisory mechanisms; and campaigning for multilateral organizations to link respect for fundamental rights to trade agreements. The organization continues its active

participation in the annual International Labour Conference and each year a PSI representative addresses the Conference Plenary.

In 2005 and 2006, ILO worked with PSI on a project to examine the implications of services liberalization in a range of public services and across a number of types of security issues, including employment, income, health and safety. A book, *Winners or Losers? Liberalizing Public Services*, covering global trends and impacts in services liberalization, was published by ILO in 2006 as a result of this project. PSI worked with ILO on a number of in-country projects to foster social dialogue in water and energy utilities, with activities in Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Peru and the Philippines. The first country project started in Kenya, with a national tripartite workshop on social dialogue in the water sector held in November 2007 in Nairobi.

PSI provided ongoing advice to affiliates wishing to submit cases to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association. PSI also submits cases to the ILO Committee of Experts and has called for the direct intervention of ILO, where necessary, for example, in 2007 there were 32 cases concerning public sector trade unions before the Committee. Each year, ILO has provided financial support for several PSI projects. In 2006, this included the PSI inter-americas anti-racism conference on the theme "Racism is a trade union issue", held in Miami in December, and an external evaluation of PSI's pay equity campaign. In December 2007, the ILO co-funded a regional PSI meeting in Manila to promote trade union involvement in the development projects of the Asian Development Bank. The organization is also working with the Bank to develop social benchmarking in utilities.

Since 2007, various departments within ILO have been co-funding PSI's international migration project targeting women workers in the health sector. Support has also been received to develop a resource kit for the promotion of PSI's quality public services campaign.

PSI continues to create and strengthen alliances at all levels between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) sharing similar concerns. The organization participated in the tripartite meeting of experts to develop joint ILO/WHO guidelines on health services and HIV/AIDS (Geneva, April 2005). PSI was also instrumental in 2005 in raising funds from WHO for the development of a Global Unions/WHO partnership programme to assist in the achievement of universal access to treatment. The organization continues its active involvement in the Global Unions HIV/AIDS programme and its advocacy efforts. In 2006, this involved close cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, WHO, ILO and the World AIDS Campaign. In 2008, PSI worked on the dissemination and implementation of new WHO guidelines for post-exposure prophylaxis and treatment for health workers exposed to HIV. It also participated in the seventeenth International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, August 2008) and in the Global Fund Partnership Forum (Dakar, December 2008).

In 2007, PSI participated in international efforts, at both WHO and ILO, to monitor the advance of avian influenza and to ensure that procedures are in place to protect health workers in case of an outbreak. The organization also lobbied for the adoption of the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health and cooperated with WHO staff to develop and implement a specific plan for health workers, including a campaign to immunize health workers against hepatitis B, with a pilot

programme being launched in Peru in 2007. It participates in the WHO Safe Injection Global Network, advocating for measures and devices to protect health workers from infection with blood-borne pathogens (HIV, hepatitis B). The organization is an active member of the Global Health Workforce Alliance, a WHO initiative to address the global shortage of health workers, estimated at 4.25 million, and participates in the WHO task shifting project, which includes initiatives to increase the number of community health workers, shifting of tasks and redeployment of personnel. The organization successfully advocated for language in the WHO task shifting guidelines to address the potential impacts of the introduction of large numbers of community health workers to the viability of national health systems, as well as on labour standards and quality of care. The Joint Programme between PSI, ILO, WHO and the International Council of Nurses on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector continued its activities throughout 2005. In 2007, the four partners began work on a new training manual on the topic. For the first time, in 2008, PSI prepared materials for use by affiliates in their efforts to highlight the issue of violence against women, its impact in the workplace and the role of trade unions, which were launched on 25 November 2008, the official International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The organization continues its annual active participation in the Commission on the Status of Women, participating in various panel and side events, such as the ILO/Global Unions workshop on "Working women's voices" in 2005, and lobbying with other union bodies for the inclusion of language concerning the role of trade unions in promoting gender equality in the workplace. In 2007, PSI joined women's groups during the Commission on the Status of Women to advance discussions on strengthening the United Nations gender equality architecture as part of the United Nations reform process. Each year, PSI and its affiliates mark International Women's Day on 8 March with campaign materials, public forums, marches and rallies in many parts of the world around different themes. "Public services are essential for women's equality" was the message sent to Heads of State in 2005, calling on them to invest in public services as essential to meeting their international commitments under the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006, the theme was "Equality at work: the global picture", with a colourful wall map showing which countries around the world have ratified ILO Equal Remuneration Convention and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention and what the gender wage gap is in selected countries. In 2007 and 2008, PSI affiliates linked International Women's Day with World Water Day on 22 March, pointing to the importance of public ownership and management of water for women and gender equality and calling on Governments to keep water services in public hands.

The organization continued its cooperation to promote pay equity through the PSI/ILO/Global Unions Pay Equity Discussion Forum in 2005 and 2006, which were opportunities for the different ILO departments working on equal pay issues to meet with representatives of the global unions. PSI took part in a tripartite course on pay equity and job evaluation methods hosted by ILO in 2007 in Turin, presenting its work on pay equity with a particular focus on the Philippines.

The organization is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation to promote pro-public policies. In October 2006, Kofi Annan mandated the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to create an office for a Global Water Operators' Partnerships

Alliance, one element of which will be worker participation in decision-making. The organization nominated two members to the Steering Committee for the Alliance, and is working to design a code of conduct for the Alliance. The organization argues that it is not possible to improve utilities without involving workers and unions and has been collecting information on union experiences of worker participation.

The organization was involved in the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Brussels, July 2007) and the second meeting of the Forum (Manila, October 2008) working with members of civil society in lobbying for a rights-based framework. Prior to the second Forum, PSI organized a workshop on trade and gender issues affecting the lives of working women, underlining the importance of the Millennium Development Goals in attacking poverty and the need to integrate the Goals into national constitutions and education programmes to make this feasible.

The organization continues to work with the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on a number of public sector issues, monitoring new policies and advocating for the interests of workers in local and regional governmental structures. It also participated in several OECD Trade Committee events preparing for the World Trade Organization sixth Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, December 2005).

The organization participated in several United Nations conferences in the reporting period. It was part of the International Trade Union Confederation delegation to the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2007), which had a special focus on energy, industrial development and climate change. In 2008, PSI participated, inter alia, in the second Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the thirteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference, the Doha Global Civil Society Forum and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland.